

July 19, 2016

FENCE VARIANCE

I am writing this letter to the City of Bloomington's City council in hopes that I will be allowed to keep my fence built in its present form.

Before I had started the fence construction I had stopped at the City Hall and asked about building a fence, shed and a new deck. I was given fact sheets on the shed and deck construction. There was not a fact sheet that I could find for the fence. I asked questions and took notes on rules of building the fence. I must have misunderstood some of these rules because Josh stopped and left me a stop construction notice. That is the reason for this letter.

I live at the southeast corner of Portland Avenue and 99th Street. My address is 9915 Portland but the house is set toward 99th St. I feel this is an unusual corner lot. My driveway curb cutaway is on 99th Street. This means my whole driveway is completely in view from the busy traffic of Portland and 98th Street. Portland Avenue may not be viewed as an arterial street but a block away it goes from a four lane road to a two lane road. Portland Avenue also feeds through to roads like 100th, 102th and 104th streets and roads connected between. This a busy street in the mornings and early evenings.

There are a few reasons why I felt the need to build this fence in the way I did. First, pictures of my personal property and house ended up on a website along with my address. Second, I would like to have the privacy for my driveway in the same way an owner of a house on a street less traveled would or that someone not on a corner would have. I would like to have my boat cover off when I have equipment drying without every car passing seeing what is out and possibly stealing it. If they can't see it, they won't be tempted to take it. I would also like my camper to be out of the view of all passing by. With the six foot fence and a gate, all would be out of view.

I would like to explain the reason for the one foot lattice and eleven inch post tops. I wanted the fence to be more appealing to all who pass by. The top posts will have planters and solar powered lights on them. My thought was to make it not just a plain fence. I even built a fence toward the back so those neighbors did not have to look at the shed that was built. So far, all the neighbors directly affected by the fence have told me how nice of a job was done and how nice it looks. I have also had many compliments by people walking by. I do not believe the fence sticks out in the neighborhood any more than the fence on the corner lot across Portland Avenue.

Again I am asking for a fence variance as the fence is built in its present form (height and design) to allow me to have a privacy area for the boat and camper.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Pat Bigelow

Looking Southwest



Looking East from Portland



Looking Northeast from Portland



Looking North (from neighbors to the South)

